

DIS AVAILABLE

Appli. No. 10/035,290

Amendment dated _____

Reply to Office Action dated 01/12/2004

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 2 and 3 of the Specification with the following amended paragraph:

The article holder may include a socket with an encircling wall projecting from a base of the socket and the wall having a splined interior. The top of the socket has a hole therethrough. A resilient block fits snugly into a top of the socket and may be bolted in place. A V-notch in the top of the block receives an article to be mounted to the surface to which the base unit is secured. A pair of oppositely extending flexible gripper straps ~~form bifurcated arms that~~ project from opposite sides of the block and the V-notch to provide means for anchoring a selected article to the resilient block. Each gripper strap has at least a pair of spaced apart projections along outer edges thereof to serve as positioners for an independent strap that is secured to the base of the socket and that passes around the gripper straps to secure objects held within the gripper straps to a surface. A rigid band formed around the periphery of the socket is connected to three corners of the base and is spaced from three sides. The band is fully secured to the other side of the base and has a hook thereon to cooperate with an expandable independent strap.

Please replace the paragraph bridging page 6 and 7 of the Specification with the following amended paragraph:

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~~Bifurcated arms in the form of flexible gripper~~ Gripper straps 96 and 98 are formed integral with the block 70, with the straps each extending from an opposite edge of the block 70 and parallel to V-notch 80. Each gripper strap is formed to curve away from the block 70 and each has raised parallel ribs 100 on one face to engage an article to be secured by the holding base system. A pair of spaced apart projections 102 and 104 are formed at opposite sides 106 and 108 of the other faces of each of the gripper straps 96 and 98 to assist in alignment of an article securement strap, such as strap 110, used to secure an article to the holding base system.